



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2025 we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/> .

Rangemaster Bullseye Course

**Fired on NRA B-8, B8-C, or FBI-IP1, scored as printed, except
outside 7 ring counts zero**

**All strings begin at the Ready, gun pointed at ground below
target frame, trigger finger in register**

25 yards 5 rds 1 minute

15 yards 5 rds 15 seconds

10 yards 5 rds 10 seconds

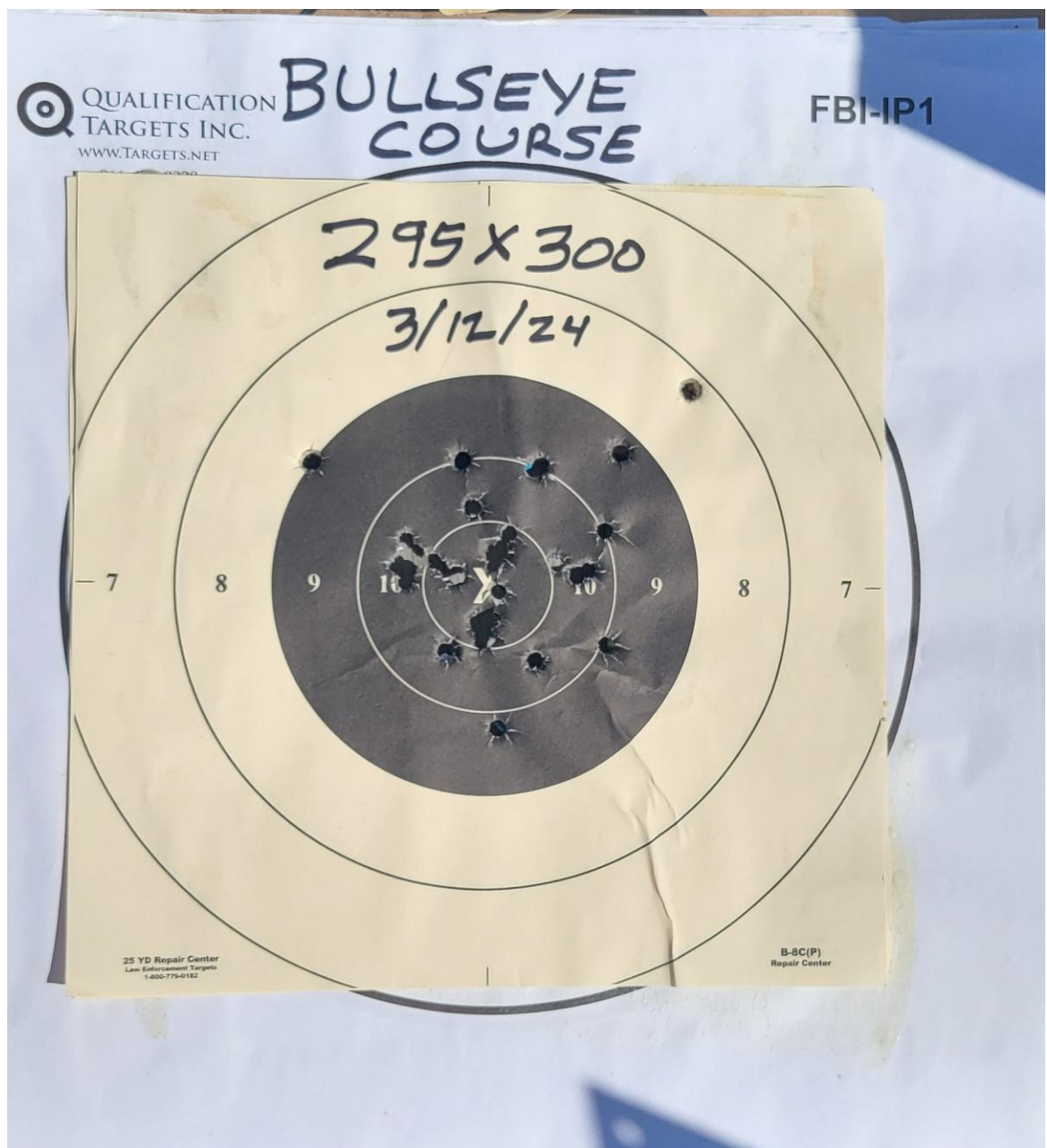
7 yards 10 rds 15 seconds

Start with 5 rds in the gun. Fire 5, reload, fire 5, all in 15 secs

5 yards 5 rds 5 seconds

30 rounds total 300 points possible 270+ to pass

This course will help you work on trigger control, visual patience, and varying cadence due to the target's size/distance.



OFF BODY CARRY

Off body carry refers to carrying a handgun that is not attached to your person via a holster. Examples would be carrying in a purse, backpack, or day planner. Off body carry is strongly discouraged unless that is the only way you can carry a gun.

If you're going to carry a gun in a purse, it **must** be a purse made to carry a gun, not just your standard handbag. A dedicated gun purse will have a separate compartment to contain the pistol and nothing else. The better models actually have a holster built into this compartment so that the pistol is stabilized and the trigger guard completely covered, for safety. The pistol compartment should be accessible completely separate from the main compartment of the purse. Never just put a handgun inside a normal purse with all the other mysterious debris that women carry. The pistol will tend to rotate around, meaning you have no idea where it's pointed. Lipsticks, pencils, pens, and God knows what else can find their way into the trigger guard and cause a negligent discharge. I have personally investigated three shootings in which a handgun loose in a purse discharged and killed a bystander. As this is being written, just two days ago a woman had a pistol in a gun purse in the shopping cart with her two-year-old child in Walmart. The toddler was able to unzip the gun compartment and cause the Smith & Wesson Shield in it to discharge, striking the child's mother in the head and killing her. Not only is she dead, that child will have to deal with this for its entire life. This is a perfect example of why you must maintain physical control of a purse containing a gun at all times. If there is a gun in your purse, you must have the purse in your physical control and custody at all times. This is going to require some real

attention at first, until it becomes a habit. If you get up from the restaurant table to go to the salad bar, the purse has to go with you, because you and you alone are responsible for the pistol in that purse.

Another reason I discourage purse carry, is what is the first thing a bad guy goes for? If he snatches your purse from you, now he has your gun, not you. It is just too easy to become separated from your pistol.

Another practice I would like to see abandoned is that of keeping a gun in the glove box or console of your car, rather than wearing it. There is not a single conceivable circumstance under which you could go to your car, unlock the door, open the glove box, get a gun, and come back and shoot somebody in legitimate self-defense. There is, however, a legal term for going to your car, unlocking the door, opening the glove box, getting a gun and coming back and shooting somebody. It is referred to as premeditated murder! Also, this is where most of the criminal handguns on the street come from. Breaking into parked cars is an incredibly common crime and it is usually one of the gateway crimes that teenage offenders start out with. Leaving a handgun unattended in the car eventually winds up with it being stolen and then later used in crimes. Remember that you are responsible for that firearm. If you need it for personal protection, wear it. If you don't need it for personal protection, lock it up in the gun safe.

If you feel you absolutely have to leave a gun in your car, it must be secured in a safe. Various manufacturers make portable in-car gun safes that you can attach via a locking cable to the seat frame, then slide the safe under the seat, out of sight.

The Modern Role of the Shotgun

With advances in barrel modifications by Vang Comp, better sights, hugely improved ammunition, and modern training methods, the serious social shotgun is light years from where it was 40 years ago.

For the typical private citizen, the idea of engaging threats from 50 to 200 meters is largely a fantasy, and that is the optimal role for the carbine/patrol rifle. On the other hand, a distressingly common problem for the private citizen is two or three intruders armed with handguns in a home invasion or take-over robbery scenario. You don't want to tackle that problem with a handgun—this is the realm of the shotgun. You've heard, "Don't take a knife to a gunfight." A better motto would be, "Don't take a pistol to a shotgun fight." The purpose of the shotgun is to DOMINATE a handgun fight, with multiple assailants, close range, and tight time being very common.

This year we have two Defensive Shotgun Instructor Development Courses scheduled, plus an Advanced Shotgun Instructor course for prior graduates. Whether you plan to teach or not, this is the best way to learn solid, modern, effective shotgun technique. Plus, it's a lot of fun.

May 16-18, 2025 **(Givens)**
Defensive Shotgun Instructor **Lakeland, FL**
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6a70e4e7e7f3ba0f31ef>

Aug 8-10, 2025 **(Givens)**
Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Apache Solutions
Yadkinville, NC
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668f3de3e4e7e7f3ba8f4191>

June 7-8, 2025 **(Givens)**
Advanced Shotgun Instructor
Echo Valley, West Virginia
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/66bc0385ef6d9173589455d2>



Feed Your Head!

Readers of our newsletter are more intelligent and better looking than the typical surfer of internet gun forums. Still, it is hard to get even our guys to study aspects of personal safety that are not directly gear related. Guns are tools. The real weapon is your brain. Here are some ways to sharpen your self preservation skills.

The first book on my list should be required reading for every person who even thinks about carrying a handgun for self defense. Principles of Personal Defense was written by Jeff Cooper in 1972 and is a very brief work outlining the seven guiding principles of personal combat. Jeff authored a number of books in his long career and many of them contain great insight into both shooting technique and mindset development. One of my favorites is Fireworks , a Gunsite Anthology. Both are out of print, but used copies can be found easily.

Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America, by James Webb has been described as “popular history at its finest” by the American Library Association. Webb traces the influx of Scots-Irish immigrants into the US and how their input shaped the American working class’s sense of fierce individualism, persistent egalitarianism and strong sense of personal honor.

Deep Survival, Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why by Laurence Gonzales is a vital description of the mental, emotional and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that “the world is divided into two groups, “copers” and “non-copers”. The purpose of training and personal development was to

become a “coper”. According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. From well known folk heroes like Sgt. Alvin York and James Bowie to some less well known gunmen like Delf “Jelly” Bryce and Lance Thomas, Kirchner gives us a look at what makes real warriors.

Straight Talk on Armed Defense, What the Experts Want You to Know, edited by Massad Ayoob. This is a collection of chapters written by 14 different experts in the self defense field, each with his own area of expertise. Contributors include Mas Ayoob, Craig “Southnarc” Douglas, William Aprill, Dr. Alexis Artwohl, John Hearne, me, and others. The information covers all aspects of armed self defense.

To this list I would add two more works dealing with the emotional and mental aspects of law enforcement involved deadly force incidents. Both offer a great deal of information on what you can expect during, and as importantly, after a defensive shooting. They are Deadly Force Encounters, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen, and Into the Kill Zone, by David Klinger.



April 11, 1986 Miami, Florida

April 11th will be the 39th anniversary of the famous FBI shoot-out in Miami, Florida. This event pitted nine FBI agents against two heavily armed, skillful, and extremely dedicated hold-up men. When the gun battle was over, both Bad Guys were dead, but so were two FBI Special Agents, plus another five agents wounded. This was a watershed event, leading to the change-over from revolvers to semiautomatic pistols in American law enforcement; to the modern high performance ammunition we have today; and a host of training and doctrinal changes.

One of the surviving agents, who killed both the suspects, was Ed Mireles. Ed has written a first person account of the fight and I strongly recommend his book if you are serious about winning violent, bloody confrontations with criminals. Available from Amazon for about \$20.00, or on Kindle even cheaper.



Post Shooting Expectations

If you find yourself involved in a self defense shooting, you will be questioned by the police (guaranteed), and you may be taken into custody for further interrogation/investigation. In the stress of a real shooting, some of your perceptions may be distorted. This can lead to inaccurate statements by you. Statements contradicted by eyewitnesses and physical evidence, including surveillance videos, will be taken by investigators as lies and indicators of guilt.

This is why it is critical NOT to make detailed statements immediately after the incident nor without legal counsel present. You will, however, need to say something up front in order to establish your claim of self defense. Keep it very simple, and very brief. DO NOT get into how many feet away, how many shots were fired, how many seconds elapsed, etc. Some of the stress related sensory distortions are covered below.

Auditory exclusion – – This is a fancy term for deafness. Under the stress involved in a life and death encounter, your brain will often turn off things it does not consider vital. Hearing is often the first thing to go. You may not hear your own shots, or they may sound distant or diminished or muffled. You may not hear his shots. You may not hear someone shouting at you.

Tunnel vision – – Again, a very common occurrence. Once your heart rate passes about 145 bpm, your entire circulatory system

changes. Blood flow to the eye is altered, affecting vision. Tunnel vision has been described as looking through a hole cut in a black wall. You might be able to see your assailant, but not people a few feet to his side.

Time distortion – – Some people describe a very accelerated sense of time, “Jeez, it all happened so fast”. More common is the perception of time slowing down, being unable to move quickly enough, or everything moving in slow motion.

Depth perception – – Related to tunnel vision in many ways. The threat may appear to be right in your face, when in fact it is some distance away.

Blocked memory – – You may physically do something during the fight, and have no conscious recollection of it afterward.

Dissociation – – This is a feeling of having stepped out of your body and serving as a detached witness to events, rather than a participant. In some law enforcement studies, as many as 50% of the subjects reported this perception during a fight. If this happens to you, how could you give an accurate statement?

As I said, you will likely experience some combination of these effects, especially in your first fight. No one experiences none of them, and very few experience more than one or two of them. It appears that the better trained you are, and the more pre-incident mental preparation you have done, the less you will suffer these effects. Remind yourself periodically, we carry a gun because we might need it to stay alive. True acceptance of that fact goes a long way toward mitigating these responses.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Lead Instructor for each class appears in parentheses.

April 26-27, 2025 Intensive Pistol Skills (Aqil Qadir)
Dallas Pistol Club, Carrollton, Texas
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/66eb2a6836fb002cd74ff2c4>

May 16-18, 2025 (Tom Givens)
Defensive Shotgun Instructor Lakeland, FL
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6a70e4e7e7f3ba0f31ef>

May 31-June 1, 2025
Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir, Instructor)
Stafford, Virginia
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/673a37c8aa4a19177007be27>

June 13-15, Master Instructor (Tom Givens)
Private Range, Stafford, Virginia
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7638e4e7e7f3ba1243cd>

June 20-22, 2025 Instructor Development Course
(Tom Givens)
Marianna, PA 15345
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6f23e4e7e7f3ba1077a9>

June 28-29, 2025

Combative Pistol Sherwood, OR (Aqil Qadir)

<https://manager.corsizio.com/events/676efdab99d74784f785341b>

July 10-12, 2025 Thursday-Saturday (Tom Givens)

Instructor Development Course Xenia, Ohio

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6d7ae4e7e7f3ba0ffe4c>

July 18-20, 2025

(Tom Givens)

Instructor Development Course Springfield, MO

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7717e4e7e7f3ba128a71>

Aug 8-10, 2025

(Tom Givens)

Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Apache, Yadkinville, NC

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668f3de3e4e7e7f3ba8f4191>

Come train with us!



